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ACTION EA-15:

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 CIAE-00 RM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-04 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 O-03 OTR-02
OC-06 CCO-00 E-15 DOT-12 AID-28 SSO-00 IO-13 NSCE-00
RSR-01 /181 W

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P R 260705Z MAR 70
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 342
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL HONGKONG
CINCPAC 121
DIA UNN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>Subling</u>	DATE <u>10/9/80</u>
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____	
TS AUTH. _____	DIAGNOSIS(S) _____
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DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASED ☒	
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD AND J-2

DIA FOR DIACO-3

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN SITREP

1. AIRPORT CLOSED AS OF 0200 LOCAL TIME. ROYAL AIR CAMBODGE
REPORTS SIEM REAP ALSO CLOSED.

2. BRIDGES ACROSS BASSAC AND TONLE SAP AT PHNOM PENH CLOSED.
FERRY ACROSS TONLE SAP ENROUTE TO SIEM REAP AND KAMPONG CHAM
CLOSED AND SMALL BOATS FORBIDDEN OPERATE ACROSS RIVER.

3. ROAD BEYOND FERRY TO OUDONG CLOSED.

4. US NEWSMEN WHO ATTEMPTED USE FERRY AND LATER GO TO OUDONG

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STATES WAS TOLD BY LOCAL POLICE CHIEF THAT FERRY CLOSED AFTER NOON MARCH 26 WHEN CROWD OF SEVERAL THOUSAND GATHERED PRIOR CROSSING WITH INTENT PROCEED TO PHNOM PENH (NO EXPLANATION WHO THEY WERE EXCEPT THAT WERE FROM KOMPONG CHAM OR WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO IN PHNOM PENH). ROAD TO OUDONG CLOSED, AGAIN ACCORDING POLICE CHIEF, BECAUSE SOME 2,000 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ALLEGEDLY GATHERED THERE PRIOR MOVE ON CAPITAL. COMMENT: WHILE ASSUMPTION IS THAT GOVERNMENT FEARS PRO-SIHANOUK DEMONSTRATIONS, IT MAY BE EQUALLY INTERESTING SIMPLY KEEP ALL DEMONSTRATIONS DOWN IN PHNOM PENH FOR FEAR OF LOSING CONTROL.

5. FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS MARCH 26 IN KOMPONG CHAM, MIMOT AND SNUOL, ALL AREAS OF HEAVY VC INVLUENCE AND INFILTRATION. BRITISH TOBACCO PLANTER KAMPONG CHAM REPORTS BUSES CARRYING SLOGAN "VIVE SIHANOUK" ON SIDES.

6. AIR OF NERVOUSNESS VERY EVIDENT AMONGST CAMBODIANS FOR FIRST TIME.

7. MEANWHILE AS OF EVENING MARCH 26, FONMIN IN CONVERSATION WITH UK AMBASSADOR WAS INSISTING ALL CALM AND WELL.

8. CHICOM AMBASSADOR PAID FAIRWELL CALL ON UK AMBASSADOR (WHOSE DEPARTURE POSTPONED FOR AT LEAST ONE MONTH DUE EVENTS) MARCH 26, CONFIRMED STILL WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS TO VISIT FONOFF.

9. HAVE LEARNED THAT AS OF 1130 THE ICC AIRCRAFT SUPPOSED TO TAKE NVN AND PRG EMBASSIES STAFFS OUT HAS NOT LANDED, SO PRESUME NO EXCEPTION BEING MADE RE LANDING PHNOM PENH.

10. FOREIGN PRESS INFORM THAT SOME CENSORSHIP BEING EXERCISED AND THAT THEY ARE NOT AS FREE MOVE ABOUT AS THEY WOULD WISH.

11. BORDER WITH VIETNAM REALLY CLOSED AT BAVET EVEN TO OFFERS HEAVY BRIBES (ACCORDING NEWSMEN).

12. STORY CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS SHOOTING AT ONE OF BRIDGES LAST NIGHT AND SOME VC (ACCORDING CAMBODIANS) WOUNDED.

13. INDIAN BUSINESS MAN TOLD EMBASSY THAT MARKET PRICE OF DOLLAR HAS RISEN TO 80 RIELS FROM USUAL 58-62. USUAL SOURCE OF DOLLARS HAS BEEN "BROKERS" WHO ACTED AS MIDDLEMEN BETWEEN THOSE RECEIVING

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DOLLARS FROM VIET CONG IN PAYMENT FOR SUPPLIES AND LOCAL BUSINESSMEN.

14. ATMOSPHERICS: CAMBODIAN LOCAL EMPLOYEES REPORT QUEEN HELD SPECIAL BUDDHIST CEREMONY IN PALACE TO ASK WHETHER OR NOT PRINCE WAS COMING BACK. CLIMAX OF CEREMONY REQUIRED QUEEN TO DRAW SACRED SWORD FROM SCABBARD. SWORD USUALLY SHINY; THIS TIME IT WAS BLACK, PORTENDING NEGATIVE ANSWER AND TROUBLES AHEAD.

15. UK EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FURTHER NOTE FROM CAMBODIAN FONOFF REQUESTING IT TO PASS ON TO GENEVA SIGNATORIES FACT THAT CAMBODIAN OFFER RE-OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH NVN/PRG RE WITHDRAWAL. LATTER'S TROOPS HAS BEEN REJECTED.
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